

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, July 5. 1712.

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*England must this O'd Prophecy fulfill,  
If e're she's sav'd, 't must be against her Will.*

I Have perhaps with more plainness than will please, been telling you who they are that are for effectually bringing on a War with the *Dutch* — It is an unhappy Parallel that lies before us in the two great National Clamours that have taken us up of late — The late Cry of the *Danger of the Church*, and the present Cry of the *Danger of a War with the Dutch*; in both which, I observe the Principle which they acted from, was alike absurd.

of the Church were handed on by those, whose Practices were the most Dangerous to the Church, of any that could be found in the Nation — The Complaint now of our being running on to a War with the *Dutch*, is made by those People, whose Practice at this Time has the most direct tendency to a War with the *Dutch*, and which must, if they go on, make it unavoidable.

This I made very plain but as it is very difficult to persuade People to look into their own Ways, and especially to Convince them of their

*The late Clamours of the Danger*

their own Mistakes, I am obliged to speak it over and over again; and I humbly recommend it to the honest People of this Nation, to Examine their own Thoughts a little, and let them ask themselves a few of the following Questions.

Are we not mighty desirous that the Confederates should carry on the War without us? Have we not appear'd pleas'd with the Notions spread Abroad, however false and unlikely to be true, of the *Dutch* fitting out a great Fleet of 70 Men of War, and sending a Squadron to prevent our Troops going by Sea to *Dunkirk*? Have not we been mightily pleas'd, that the Auxiliary Troops in the pay of *Great Britain*, have refus'd to obey our Orders, and with the Contempt with which it is Reported, the Confederate Generals have Treated the *British* General, and much more which I could name?

And whither does all this tend? Is not this cutting our own Throats? Are not all these Steps to a Breach with the *Dutch*? Are not all these Steps to continuing the War? In which Case, as I have prov'd already, it is impossible for us to stand Neuter, nay, even the Confederates themselves would not permit us to do so.

To say this is all owing to the Change of Measures and Ministry here, and such and such have brought

us to this, is to say nothing to the Purpose; if a Man throw me into a deep River, Is it my Business to Exclaim against the Treachery or Cruelty, or whatever I may call it; or is it my Business to swim out again? The first will end in Drowning myself, the latter may be a Deliverance: The Question as I said before, is not why we have broke off from the *Dutch*, why we resolve upon Peace? But what we are to do, now it is so happened?

Why the Government has put an End to the War, or how, or who is Concern'd in it, this is nothing to me; the Queen has answer'd it to us all, that it is her Undoubted Prerogative to make Peace and War; vide the Queen's Speech June 19. Nor are the Arguments for, or against the Reasonableness or Justice of the present Peace, of any Weight in this Matter one Way or other: I wish it were in my Power, or any honest Man's Power, by Wise and Moderate Steps, to prevent a *Separate Peace*, but we are in this Case to look on the Thing Peace, to be determin'd, and we see no Way to prevent it, what is now to be done is the Question?

The Emperor and the *Dutch* will carry on the War without us, say some, and please themselves with the Hopes of it; for my part, I dread the Consequences; if it can be done without bringing us to a War with the *Dutch*, I shall be glad to hear of it, but if not, as I am satisfy'd it cannot, Where are we then? And what are we all doing,



ing, but carrying on a *Jacobite* Interest, by our own Animosities and Party-Fury? And we that pretend to be all one with the *Dutch*, are bringing on a War with them *the shortest Way*, let us state the Case as plainly as possible.

If the *Dutch* carry on this War against *France*, one of these Things must follow, perhaps all of them, let any Man that regards the Protestant Interest, Examine them, and reflect upon himself.

1. Either the *Dutch* must be Ruin'd;
2. Or we must be Ruin'd;
3. Or we must have a War with the *Dutch*.

These are all Dreadful Prospects, but I see no Medium, unless the Peace intervene, nor any Way to prevent it, if the Confederates do not come into a Peace.

1. If the Emperor and the *Dutch* carry on the War against *France*, either they will Conquer or be beaten, if they should be beaten, all Men will allow they are Ruin'd, for *England* being disoblig'd, they have no Human Recourse.

2. If they Conquer and Reduce *France*, and Recover *Spain*, we having incens'd the Emperor, Disoblig'd the *Dutch*, and having no Share in their Success, but having rather oppos'd it—What can we expect, but to have all *Europe* by their Influence Enrag'd against us, our Trade destroy'd, and perhaps worse? And this I call RUIN to us.

3. Such Success of the *Dutch* against *France*, must force us to a War, to prevent that Ruin; I have nothing to do here, with *why*, or *wherefore* we have broken off from the Confederates; as I said before, the Thing is done and over, there is no looking back, at least in my Argument: *The Question is*, what follows?

It is a sad Prospect of the present Affair, that the Consequence of these Extremes seem to make a new War inevitable; I am sure no Man speaks of this with more Concern than I do, and I speak of it now, that if possible, it may be prevented, it is in vain to talk of it afterwards.

It is a Melancholly Thing to think Affairs should be brought to such an unhappy Crisis, let any one but observe the Particulars——We must be oblig'd to Fight the *Dutch* if they Conquer, for fear of our own Ruin; We must be forc'd to Fight the Emperor, lest he push the *Dutch* on to Fight to their Ruin, and at last, we may be oblig'd to fight the *French* again, lest all should be Ruin'd.

Let the wisest Man alive propose a Medium for this, if he can, except a Peace can be made to quiet and satisfy all Parties, and this I cannot but yet hope for, from the Wisdom and Prudence of the *Dutch*.

Going back to the Confederates, and carrying on the War, is what, I suppose is not to be

expected on our Side, bringing the Emperor to accept of Peace, without the *Spanish Monarchy*, is what we see no Hopes of— What a Condition then are we come to? The *British* having Employ'd most Foreign Troops, are not in a Condition to hold the Ballance, and standing between the two Parties, force them to agree; What then but Ruin to us

and all *Europe*, can be the Consequence of this War?

The only Medium I see is, that *Britain* must put herself into a Posture of Strength, to hold the Hands of these Contending Powers, and bring them to Peace, either by fair means or foul, for which soever Side Conquers in the War, we cannot be safe, and if this be done, I am sure it will be fore against our Wills, which makes good my Text.

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